

## Darwin Initiative/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019)

<b>Project reference</b>	24-001
<b>Project title</b>	Improving forest governance for Cross River gorillas and Nigerian farmers
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Nigeria
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>Partner(s)</b>	1) Conservation Association of Mbe Mountains; 2) Cross River State Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry; 3) Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN); 4) Boki Local Government Area
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Inaoyom Imong</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	<i>April – September 2019: HYR3</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<i>Website: <a href="https://nigeria.wcs.org/">https://nigeria.wcs.org/</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CRgorilla/">https://www.facebook.com/CRgorilla/</a> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/WCS_Nigeria">https://twitter.com/WCS_Nigeria</a></i>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).**

Output 1. Local farmers have been trained to increase efficiency of existing cocoa farms.

During this reporting period, the project trained additional 145 cocoa farmers in Mbe on improved farming practices and provided them with improved cocoa seedlings from the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria to replant old farms.

Output 2. Local women's groups and young men trained in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing.

One hundred and eleven more women were trained in bush mango propagation, sustainable harvesting, storage and marketing, and provided with improved bush mango seedlings. To assist them to better mobilize resources, improve access to market, and increase income from bush mango, the project supported the women to form cooperatives. The project also supported the registration of the cooperatives and provided training in entrepreneurship, business plan development, and record keeping.

Output 3. Protection of the Mbe Mountains is enhanced and community land tenure secured through legal recognition of 127km<sup>2</sup> as a "Community Managed Wildlife Sanctuary".

WCS continued to support efforts to gazette the Mbe Mountains as a community wildlife sanctuary by Cross River State Government. During this reporting period, WCS supported CAMM meetings to discuss plans to engage a professional surveyor to carry out survey and mapping of the Mbe conservation area to produce required documents to support the

gazettement process. Discussions are underway with the surveyor and the survey and mapping will commence soon.

Output 4. The effectiveness of law enforcement interventions of WCS and local communities is improved for Mbe Mountains ecosystem.

WCS continued to support eco-guards in the Mbe Mountains to carry out anti-poaching patrols, adapting patrol strategy based on information from previous patrols and intelligence gathered to improve effectiveness of law enforcement action. Using SMART, WCS monitored patrol effort (kilometers walked and the number of patrol days completed), as well as hunting pressure through measuring encounter rate of signs such as wire snares, hunting camps, and empty shotgun shells discarded by hunters. During this reporting period, WCS supported 43 anti-poaching patrols of the Mbe Mountains by 16 CAMM eco-guards, covering a total distance of 1,792 km over 1,373 person-days. Thirteen people were apprehended and 5 hunting camps and 3,012 wire snares (as well as 381 snare wires confiscated from hunting camps) were destroyed (Table 1).

Table 1. Encounter rate of hunting signs recorded from April to September 2019

Sign	# of Observations	Encounter rate/km
Gunshots heard	14	0.008
Set wire snares	3,012	1.681
Unset wire snares recovered from hunting camps	381	0.213
Empty cartridges	215	0.120
Hunting camps	5	0.003

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

The project did not encounter any notable problems or unexpected developments over the last 6 months.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R25 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk). The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**